

## **Quality Time**

LCDR R. C. Richards  
Command Chaplain

This past ten days, I have been spending some time with a very important person. I have several important people in my life, first of which is my wife. In addition to our parents, my wife and I also have two sons and two daughters-in-law. We also have a grandson, Dylan.

My son and his wife came home on leave at the end of May, and we have been spending some time with them and getting reacquainted with our grandson. We have not seen him since they were home Christmas and this is only the third time we have been able to be with him since he was born.

I have been amazed, however, to watch Dylan with his dad. When Jeremy comes in, Dylan gets excited and laughs and smiles and wants to be held by and play with his daddy. Jeremy is equally as enthused about spending time with his son. They play together and talk to each other and just enjoy being together.

I also enjoy being with our sons. We enjoy a lot of activities together and enjoy just being with each other. They have both ground up to be fine young men and it is a joy to be around them. It also helps to remind me that my own father probably enjoys spending time with his own sons, as well. It is important to do this.

I hear a lot of men try to justify their own actions saying that they don't have a great quantity of time to spend with their children, so they make up for it in quality time. I have never been able to figure out just how they do this. I have never learned how we can take any given amount of time and make it of a higher quality than another. It seems to me that God has given each of us the same amount of time, all of equal quality, and then allows us to determine the manner in which we will spend it.

It has been my experience that it is the quantity of time that makes the time together of high quality. If we don't spend time with our children regularly, then when we do, we are as strangers to them. However, if we spend a lot of time with them, they are more willing to listen to our advice and counsel, as well as enjoy the time that we do have.

The same is true of spending time with our Heavenly Father. He is anxious to spend time with us, but too often we allow other times to come in the way of growing a deeper relationship with Him. The problem is, when a child doesn't get to spend adequate time with their father, the father is disappointed, but the child is the one who has the most to lose. They don't get the benefit of their father's experience and wisdom. They grow up to be lesser adults than they could be if they had spend more time with Dad.

This Father's Day, commit yourself to making a more positive impact on the world. Spend some quality time with your Heavenly Father, as well as the other members of your family.

Semper Fi in the Lord and I hope to see you in Church on Sunday.